

Anthony B. Iton

Anthony Iton, M.D., J.D., MPH is the Alameda County, California Health Officer. As County Health Officer he oversees an agency with a budget of \$100 million with a focus on preventing communicable disease outbreaks, reducing the burden of chronic disease and obesity, and managing the county's preparedness for biological terrorism. He has a strong interest in obesity prevention, particularly regarding facilitating the involvement of parents in school nutrition, physical education and health services decision making. As such, he has championed the development of school-based *Healthy Living Councils* in Alameda County schools where parents, school administrators, food staff, school nurses, physical education staff, students, teachers and community members can come together collaboratively to design and implement healthy school environments.

Dr. Iton received his medical degree at Johns Hopkins Medical School and subsequently trained in internal medicine and preventive medicine at New York Hospital, Yale, and Berkeley and is board certified in both specialties. Dr. Iton has also received a law degree and a Master's of Public Health from the University of California, Berkeley and is a member of the California Bar.

He has worked as an HIV disability rights attorney at the Berkeley Community Law Center, a health care policy analyst with Consumers Union West Coast Regional Office, and as a physician and advocate for the homeless at the San Francisco Public Health Department. His experience practicing both medicine and law independently has enabled him to blend both disciplines in the day-to-day practice of public health and in responding to recent public health emergencies such as SARS and anthrax. In Connecticut, he developed the local protocol for prophylaxing postal employees after exposure to anthrax spores at a postal distribution center and taught a course on the local public health response to Bioterrorism at the University of Connecticut.

In Stamford, he developed a comprehensive school health database that serves as the template for several unique programs including a targeted health insurance enrollment program, an asthma home environmental assessment and intervention program, and a school-based dental sealant program. Through a partnership with the schools and local hospital, and employing state-of-the-art GIS technology, Dr. Iton enabled the Health Department to design targeted interventions that directly address persistent health disparities in lead poisoning, asthma, and obesity prevention.

Dr. Iton also initiated Stamford's Westside Project which is an interdisciplinary chronic disease prevention program focused on involving an inner-city community in the city's redevelopment process with an eye towards increasing walkability, bikeability and general useability. The Westside Project is run in conjunction with the city's land use and planning department. Dr. Iton was also a key participant in the recent successful passage of a comprehensive statewide smoking ban in Connecticut restaurants and bars.

Dr. Iton was involved early on in the West Nile virus epidemic and participated in several early publications on the epidemiology of the West Nile virus in Connecticut. Recent awards include the Champion of Children Award from the United Way; the National Association of City and County Health Officials Award of Excellence for the use of information technology in public health; and the HeartSaver Award from the American Heart Association.

Dr. Iton's primary interest is the health of disadvantaged populations and the contributions of race, class, wealth, education, geography, and employment to health status. He has asserted that the biggest single contributor to our country's vulnerability to bioterrorism is the lack of a universal system of health insurance for all Americans.